AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1.-16. (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended) A method of analysing an image comprising performing a Hough transform on points in an image space to ~~an n-dimensional~~ a 2-dimensional Hough space, to derive a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, selecting points in the Hough space representing features in the image space, wherein said selected points are peaks of the histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, characterised by projecting and accumulating ~~the~~ said selected points onto ~~the axis or axes for m of the n variables, corresponding to the n-dimensions~~ one axis of the two axes of the Hough space, ~~where m is less than n,~~ and analysing the ~~m variables~~ variable corresponding to said one axis and the corresponding accumulated selected points values to derive information about the features in the image space.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 comprising detecting points for the Hough transform using feature detecting means comprising any of edge or corner detecting means or colour feature detecting means.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of analyzing the variables and the corresponding accumulated selected points values comprises ~~comprising~~ identifying peaks in the accumulated selected points values, ~~and using the corresponding values for the m variables~~.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 comprising analysing the relationships between the values for the ~~m~~ variables corresponding to the peaks in the accumulated selected points values.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 21~~claim 17 wherein the Hough transform is for detecting lines and maps a point (x, y) in image space to points (r, θ) in Hough space.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the analysis involves analysing the values of θ.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of selecting points in the Hough space involves identifying local peaks and comparing the local peaks with a threshold.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the threshold is derived by generating a plurality of random reference images, for each reference image performing a Hough transform and deriving a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, combining the histograms for the reference images, and using the combined histograms to derive a threshold.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the reference images have similar statistical properties to the subject image.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein, the analysis of the selected points is for identifying man-made structures and/or for distinguishing between urban/non-urban areas.

28.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for image analysis comprising: means for processing image signals, means for performing a Hough transform on points in an image space to a 2-dimensional Hough space, to derive a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, means for selecting points in the Hough space representing features in the image space, wherein said selected points are peaks of the histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, means for projecting and accumulating ~~the~~ said selected points onto ~~the axis or axes for m of the n variables, corresponding to the n dimensions~~one axis of the two axes

of the Hough space, ~~where m is less than n,~~ and means for analysing the ~~m variables~~ variable corresponding to said one axis and the corresponding accumulated selected points values to derive information about the features in the image space.

29.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable program for analysing an image, the computer program when executed causes a computer system to execute steps of: performing a Hough transform on points in an image space to ~~an n-dimensional~~ a 2-dimensional Hough space to derive a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, selecting points in the Hough space representing features in the image space, wherein said selected points are peaks of the histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, characterised by projecting and accumulating ~~the~~ said selected points onto ~~the axis or axes for m of the n variables, corresponding to the n dimensions~~ one axis of the two axes of the Hough space, ~~where m is less than n,~~ and analysing the ~~m variables~~ variable corresponding to said one axis and the corresponding accumulated selected points values to derive information about the features in the image space.

30.   (Currently Amended) A method of generating a threshold for identifying peaks in a histogram of accumulated values derived from a Hough transform of a subject image, each peak representing the same type of feature in the subject image ~~features in a subject image using the Hough transform~~, the method comprising generating a plurality of reference images, for each reference image performing ~~a~~ the same Hough transform for identifying said type of feature and deriving a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, combining the histograms for the reference images for the same type of feature to generate a combined histogram, and using the combined ~~histograms~~ histogram to derive ~~a~~ said threshold.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the reference images have similar statistical properties to the subject image.

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32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the reference images are randomly generated.

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein said combining of histograms comprises averaging the histogram.

34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a threshold for identifying peaks in a histogram of accumulated values derived from a Hough transform of a subject image, each peak representing the same type of feature in the subject image features-in-a subject-image-using-the-Hough-transform-comprising: means for generating a plurality of reference images, means, for each reference image, for performing a-the same Hough transform for identifying said type of feature and deriving a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, means for combining the histograms for the reference images for the same type of feature to generate a combined histogram, and means for using the combined histograms-histogram to derive a-said threshold.

36.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable program of generating a threshold for identifying peaks in a histogram of accumulated values derived from a Hough transform of a subject image, each peak representing the same type of feature in the subject imagefeatures-in-a-subject-image-using-the Hough-transform, the computer program when executed causes a computer system to execute steps of: generating a plurality of reference images, performing, for each reference image, a-the same Hough transform for identifying said type of feature and deriving a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, combining the histograms for the reference images for the same type of feature to generate a combined histogram, and using the combined histograms histogram to derive a-said threshold.

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37.   (New) A method of analysing an image comprising performing a Hough transform on points in an image space to an n-dimensional Hough space, to derive a histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, selecting points in the Hough space representing features in the image space, wherein said selected points are peaks of the histogram of accumulated values in Hough space, characterised by projecting and accumulating said selected points onto the axis or axes for m of the n variables, corresponding to the n-dimensions of the Hough space, where m is less than n, and analysing the m variables and the corresponding accumulated selected points values to derive information about the features in the image space.

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